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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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HEALTH
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C.R. 52

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

≠ O.N. LITTLE. ≠ J.M. DEKINS.

(≠ Temporary Appointments.)

County Offices,
Alton Street,
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Telephone - Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing Designated Officer:

+ G.E. HARDY, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual, Report for 1943 which summarises the work of the Public Health Department during that period. The Report is in accordance with Circular 10/44 of the Ministry of Health and is of necessity abbreviated.

The main function of the Department is the prevention of ill health rather than its cure although these functions cannot be entirely seperated, nevertheless, the prevention of ill health demands attention to matter such as housing, water supplies and sanitary circumstances generally where the correlation with health CANNOT be immediately apparent.

Generally speaking, I think the health of the District has been fairly satisfactory. Of the notifiable dise ses, measles and whooping cough were much the most frequent. Whilst the tendency of recent years has been towards an increase in the number of notifications, this may be apparent rather than real, for measles and whooping cough have only recently become compulsorily notifiable and the efficiency of notification generally may have increased.

The number of additions to the Tuberculosis Register was greater than in pre-war years, but this experience is general throughout the country and has little local significance.

I have to acknowledge with thanks assistance given me in the preparation of this report and throughout the year by my colleagues Mr. D.H. Thomas, Clerk to the Council, Mr. Christopher, Rating Officer, and Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector to the Council. Also I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to those members of the Council who have continued to afford me their support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG.

Medical Officer of Health.

MAY 1944.

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SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in acres)	72,105
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943)	3,329
Rateable Value	£42,554
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£192.0.0

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 16.1

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still) 34.5

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude) 12.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births.
Heading No. 29 ...	Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Heading No. 30 ...	Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	71.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	66.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	133.3

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA:

The laboratory Facilities remained unchanged but the Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, is under the control of the Medical Research Council.

The following list shows some of the examinations carried out at the laboratory in connection with your District:-

Water - Chemical Examination ...	2
Bacteriological " ...	40
Swabs	15
Sputum	6

The provision of health services for the District remains for the most part unchanged with some small augmentations.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

Water: The water supplies of the District vary greatly in character. They embrace piped supplies from Statutory Water Undetakers, piped supplies provided by the Local Authority, piped schemes under private ownership, public wells and springs, private wells and springs, rainwater and river water supplies. Broadly speaking, the water supplies are derived from the shallow underground water.

In spite of the variety of supplies in operation, all parts of the District are not adequately supplied with water, and the number of seperate supplies makes it difficult for the Department to exercise more than a scanty supervision over the quality of the waters serving the population. The essential of control is, of course, frequent sampling and examination. In fact, the most urgent matters are dealt with as they arise.

In the Annual Report for 1938, there was included a summary of the water supplies available in each Parish, and whilst the Council at that time criticized this summary as being an inaccurate and misleading statement, I am still of the opinion that it gives a view of the water supplies of the District as a whole.

The water supplied by the Ross Water Undertaking in the Parishes of Ross Rural, Walford, Bridwtow and Weston is of very highpotable quality and is derived from boreholes with continuous chlorination, before being pumped to the reservoir. This supply is of the constant type and is fed to the various dwellings by seperate services except in one instance in the Parish of Ross Rural where one public stand pipe forms the supply for one dwelling. The Undertaking supplies only part of these parishes, the exact number of dwellings being:-

Bridstow	103	Dwellings.
Ross Rural	90	"
Weston	5	"
Walford	30	"

The Local Authority provides piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbotts, Llangarron and Garway. The water for the Brampton Abbotts scheme is purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking whilst for Llangarron and Garway use is made of local springs, in each case the supply is of the constant type being supplied to dwellings partly by piped services and partly by stand pipes, the supplies being limited to part of the parishes.

The Garway scheme is fed by gravitation and supplies 39 dwellings of which 10 make use of stand pipes. The water has been testedand found to be of good potable quality.

The Brampton scheme is smaller and supplies 20 dwellings of which 8 make use of stand pipes. The water is of excellent purity.

The Llangarron supply is composed of two seperate schemes. The Llancloudy scheme is the smaller and consists of spring water fed by gravitation to 17 dwellings by piped services. The amount of water available has not always been entirely adequate for recent demands and the quality has not always been satisfactory although a chlorinating apparatus is installed to deal with this liability to variation.

The Llangarron scheme is obtained from springs by pumping and the water is permanently of good potable quality. There are 7 stand pipes in operation in this parish which supply approximately 20 dwellings, of these 14 are situated at Llangrove. Piped services are provided in connection with 109 dwellings.

Private piped supplies operate in the following parishes:- Bridstow, Brockhampton, Foy, Ganarew, Goodrich, Hentland, Hoep Mansell, How Caple, Kings Caple, Lea, Marstow, Pencoyd, Weston, Harewood, Upton Bishop, Whitchurch, Walford, St. Weonards and Welsh Newton.

These utilise water from a variety of sources and are of various degrees of mechanical soundness. The Department cannot exercise more than a slight supervision over these supplies. The number of dwellings supplied by the largest of these schemes is about 30 whilst the smallest number is 2. In no instance do any of these schemes supply a whole parish, but in some parishes more than one scheme is in operation and some systems supply parts of more than one parish. The total number of dwellings obtaining supplies from these private piped supplies in the whole District is about 350.

Most of the remaining dwellings depend upon public wells or private shallow wells. The water from these is often inadequate in the drier months of the year and the quality is usually indifferent apart from the public wells.

The existing water supplies cannot be regarded as adequate for all parts of the District and adequate supplies of potable water at suitable pressure is a real need.

So far as is known there does not appear to be any marked plumbo-solving in connection with any of the waters in use in the District. However, no special effort has been made to investigate this point and the use of lead services is not extensive.

Forty Two samples of water were sent for examination and of these samples 26 were found to be satisfactory and 16 proved to be unsatisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector submits the following Report on the Water Supplies during the year:-

Rainfall has been very low during the past 12 months, but up to the present has caused no undue hardship in any part of the district.

The Council's supplies have maintained a sufficiency with the exception of Llancloudy supply, which ran very low during September, October and November. The erection of a Hostel in this parish and the call on this supply for water by the Hostel, has created some difficulty.

Drainage & Sewerage:

Four drains were provided for existing dwellings during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

Inspections:-

Bakehouses	12
Building Byelaws	23
Drains Tested (a) Hydraulic Tests	13
(b) Smoke Tests	1
Cowsheds an Dairies	187
Factories with Mechanised Power	7
Factories without Machanised Power	29
Housing (Rural Workers Acts)	nil
Housing (Other Acts)	79
Investigations re Infectious Disease	22
Nuisances	23
Overcrowding	nil
Slaughterhouses	nil
Water Samples taken - Chemical Examination	2
Bacteriological Examination	42

Notices Issued:-

Informal	33
Statutory re Housing	6
Statutory under other Acts	1

Summary of Defects Remedied Etc:-

(a) Water Supplies:-

New Services from Ross-on-Wye Water Undertaking ...	7
New Wells Provided	nil
Water Samples Taken - Chemical Examination	2
Bacteriological	42
Sources from which more than one Sample was taken ...	8
Maximum number of Samples taken from one source ...	18

(b) Notifiable Disease:-

Rooms Disinfected	30
Number of Lots of Bedding and Bedclothing Disinfected	30
Shelters Disinfected re Tuberculosis	3
Schools Disinfected	nil

(c) Drainage and Sewage Disposal:-

New Drains provided for existing houses	4
Privies converted to Pail Closets	2
Privies converted to Water Closets	nil

(d) Milk and Daries Order 1926:-

Cowsheds Improved	4

(e) Housing Acts:- Houses Repaired 9

School Closures:- Nuisances Abated 11

Tretire with Michaelchurch 14.4.43. - 22.4.43. Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox and Scarlet Fever.

SECTION D. - HOUSING;-

The year was outstanding in so far as the Council embarked upon a new policy of house construction, previously only two new cottages had been erected in the District by the Local Authority, The Council agreed to build ten cottages at the request of the Ministry under the Housing Emergency Scheme for Agriculture Workers. The plans were prepaired by the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor Mr. G.E. Hardy, L.R.I.B.A. and approved by the Ministry.

The building commenced in July and August but, they were not completed at the end of the year. Mr. Hardy informs me that the erection of these dwellings proved to be very difficult owing to the conditions prevailing in the building industry and has expressed some disappointment at restrictions in the building standards which were necessary under wartime conditions.

However, having recently inspected some of these dwellings I do not share that disappointment. The houses are erected in the parishes of Llangrove, Garway and Brampton Abbotts on sites purchased by the Council and all are served Councils water water mains. The sites are magnificent and the arrangement of the dwellings is both attractive and useful. The dwellings posses everything which is essential and are very superior to the majority of the agricultural cottages of the District. The Council can, I think, be satisfied that the dwellings will stand coparison with any similar houses in the country.

It is to be hoped that the Council will undertake further schemes for the erection of cottages in the future. These are necessary to provide additional cottages in view of the increased Rural population and to secure the abatement of overcrowding. A further need is for the replacement of cottages unfit for human habitation, of which there are a number, by modern dwellings.

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	41
Number of inspections made for the purpose	53

Number of dwelling houses found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation nil

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority or their Officers 8

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:-

Milk Supply:-

There were 291 persons registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 at the end of the Year.

All premises are regularly inspected, 187 such inspections having been made during the year.

SECTION F. - INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES:-

The most frequent infections which occurred during the year were Whooping Cough, Measles and Chicken Pox, much the greater part of the patients being children under ten years of age. Pneumonia was the second most prevalent infection there being 18 notifications received, followed by Scarlet Fever, of which there were 13 cases. Also there were 6 cases of Diphtheria with one death in a child who had not been immunised, only two of these cases occurred in children under 15 yaers of age. Cerebro Spinal Fever occurred on three occasions - all of the patients were males under 15 years of age.

The distribution of the common infections according to the quarter is shown in the table below.

Disease.	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Total
Measles	11	54	4	—	69
Whooping Cough	17	42	6	6	71
Pneumonia	5	4	-	9	18
Scarlet Fever	6	4	2	1	13
Diphtheria	2	1	2	1	6
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	-	-	-	3
All Diseases	44	105	14	17	180

All diseases show a predominence in the first and second quarters with the single exception of pneumonia which was most prevalent in the fourth quarter.

The number of cases admitted to the Stretton Sugwas Isolation Hospital was nine - two of these were suffering from scarlet fever and the remaining seven from diphtheria In addition, two cases of cerebro-spinal fever were admitted to the County Council Hospital, Hereford, under the new arrangements.

Analysis of Total Notified Cases According to Age:-

Disease.	Age Groups.												Totals.
	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Measles	1	3	5	9	9	26	7	-	9	-	-	-	69
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	-	6	3	18
Scarlet Fever	-	1	4	1	-	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	13
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	8	9	2	7	5	34	5	-	-	1	-	-	71
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	-	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	9	14	14	17	14	67	14	4	17	3	6	4	183

The efficiency of notification appears to be good except in respect to measles and whooping cough. These diseases are confined almost exclusively to young children and in many instances no doctor is called and the disease is not recognised. Notifications are seldom received from parents. As a result the true incidence of these diseases is probably greater than the figures of notifications would suggest.

Scabies:-

The number of cases of scabies which were brought to the notice of the Department was 11. This represents a decrease upon the figure for the previous year, but, as the notification of this disease is not compulsory, this figure does not represent the full incidence of this disease, but it does show that the incidence is greater than in the pre-war years. Scabies is a most difficult disease to deal with in a Rural District as the Council has no clinics in which treatment can be carried out under the supervision of skilled staff and all treatment must be carried out in the home with very few exceptions. Many of the dwellings have no bath and water supplies are often a handicap.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Progress with this scheme continued to be steady, if not spectacular. The scheme is operated in part by the Department and in part by the practitioners practising in the District. All immunisation being free to persons under 16 years of age, the practitioners being remunerated by the Council on agreed terms. The scheme works smoothly and the practitioners of the District have co-operated extremely well.

The prophylactics used are Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.) and Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules (T.A.F.). The following table summarises the work carried out during the year:-

Age Group	1-5 Years.	5-15 Years.	1-15 Years.
1st. Quarter	52	41	93
2nd. Quarter	15	6	21
3rd. Quarter	9	8	17
4th. Quarter	25	23	48
Whole Year	101	78	179

The percentage of the child population under five years of age regarded as being immunised at the end of the year was 35.5 and for the 5-15 years group this figure is 72. These figures are probably too low as they are calculated upon the actual age groups of the population and this embraces a number of private residential schools which run Diphtheria Immunisation Schemes distinct from the Council's Scheme, with the result that the Department does not obtain returns of the number of children thus immunised.

There is neither the staff nor the time available to carry out any post Schick Tests, in fact to obtain the present figures assistance by the staff of the County Public Health Department has been necessary.

Only 2 notifications of Diphtheria were received relating to children under 15 years of age. Neither had received courses of prophyllactic and one case was fatal.

Continuous propaganda preferably on a co-ordinated national and local basis appears to be necessary to maintain public interest in this most important preventive measure.

Tuberculosis:-

At the commencement of the year there were 34 names on the Tuberculosis Register, of these 23 related to the pulmonary form and 11 to other forms. There were 15 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis

notified in the course of the year 6 occurring in males and 9 in females. In addition 3 new cases of the non-pulmonary disease were added. The number of names removed from the Register was 12. There were 9 deaths from tuberculosis of all forms.

	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		All Forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of Cases on Register 1st. January 1943	17	6	8	3	25	9
Number of New Cases Notified	6	9	2	1	8	10
Number of Cases Added Otherwise than by Notification	4	2	-	1	4	3
Number of Cases Removed	7	5	-	-	7	5
Number of Cases Remaining on 31.12.43.	20	12	10	5	30	17

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1943.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES. Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		DEATHS. Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
15+	1	3	-	-	2	1	-	-
25+	1	2	-	1	3	1	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
55+	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

It will be observed that the total number of names on the Register increased during the year chiefly as a result of new cases being notified. This has been the experience of the country as a whole and has little local significance.

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